OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

Department of State

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1954 JAN 30 PM 3 2

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SENT TO: American Embassy, Guatemala City 281

Origin

Info:

Following press release made today.

"The Department of State has today received a summary of the statement issued yesterday by the Presidential Information Office of Guatemala charging that the United States Government had acquiesced in a plot by other nations against Guatemala. The charge is ridiculous and untrue. It is the policy of the United States not to intervene in the internal affairs of other nations. This policy has repeatedly been reaffirmed under the present Administration.

"It is notable that the charge comes as the climax of an increasingly mendacious propaganda campaign and of attacks on freedom of expression and democratic labor organization in Guatemala. This is perhaps connected with the recent change in the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry and with the return from visits to the Soviet Union and Iron Curtain countries of Victor Manuel Gutierrez and José Manuel Fortuny, the former a notorious communist and leader of the communist-dominated labor confederation (CGTG), the latter the head of the Guatemalan Communist Party, and both closely associated

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CGTG

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Drafted by: ARA:MID R.G.Leddy rgl (1-30-54)

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: Philip Raine

Philip Raine

Clearances: ARA/P PR

2/9/82

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American Embassy Guatemala

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Info:

with the leading figures of the Guatemalan Government. The official Guatemalan press and radio offices, to which President Arbenz has appointed a group of dedicated propagandists of Communism, such as Raul Leiva, Carlos Alvarado Jerez, Otto Raul Gonzalez and Medardo Mejia, have a long record of circulating false charges, typically communist in their technique, against the United States, the United Nations, and particularly those countries which have been actively resisting communist aggression.

"The United States views the issuance of this false accusation immediately prior to the Tenth Inter-American Conference as a communist effort to disrupt the work of this conference and the inter-American solidarity which is so vital to all the nations of the Hemisphere."

Smith
SECRET

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AIR POUCH

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : SAN SALVADOR NO. 1307

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF : --

February 1, 1954
DATE

BY HAND TO PRINT OFFICE

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ARA-4 DC/R-2 OLI-6 EUR/A-1 U/OC-1 R-1 CCB-1 CIA-7 Navy-3

SUBJECT: Bickering Among Guatemalan Exiles.

On January 13, the afternoon tabloid Patria Nueva published an item to the effect that a number of Guatemalan exiles had addressed the Supreme Court to obtain a stay in the orders issued by the General Direction of Migration that they leave the country within 15 days. It added that Mario SOSA CRUZ had presented this request in his name and in the name of several other exiles, claiming that they had asked the reason for this decision but had been given no explanation. The morning newspapers of January 16 published the text of the request for amparo which had been made by Sosa Cruz. Sosa Cruz claimed that because of his open opposition to the government of Guatemala and being about to fall into the hands of the police, he had left without documentation and had reached El Salvador. Subsequently he had been documented by the General Direction of Migration as a political refugee. Following his entry into the country on June 17, 1952, he had been given a permit to remain for a period of 6 months which, on its termination, had been renewed for a period of one year. However, on requesting a further renewal, it had been refused by the Director General of Migration. He alleged this refusal to be a violation of Article 153 of the Constitution which provides for the granting of asylum by El Salvador to persons seeking it for political reasons.

On January 19, the Frente Anticomunista de Guatemaltecos en Exilio (FAGE) published a statement in Patria Nueva in which it stated that a cable from Mexico, which had been widely circulated in Central America and repeatedly mentioned on Guatemalan radio broadcasts, claimed that as a consequence of the "virulent campaign which Guatemalan emigrés had undertaken in El Salvador against the Arbenz regime, the latter made representations to the government of Col. Osorio which set a date for all Guatemalan emigrés to leave the Republic of El Salvador." In view of this report, and the statements made to the press by Sosa Cruz, the FAGE declared:

(1) that the campaign against the communist government which has taken power in Guatemala is being carried out in El Salvador only by the FAGE;

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(2) that none of the members of the FAGE have received warning from the migration authorities that they must leave the country;

(3) that in Salvador there is a true democratic feeling and based on the full realization by the government that only in this manner can its task of freeing the country from the communist pestilence be accomplished;

(4) that the only persons who have been called before the migration authorities are those whose residence permits have expired and those who, because of irregularities in their conduct, have not appreciated the hospitality extended by El Salvador, and

(5) that with particular regard to Guillermo Sosa Cruz, it should be pointed out that he is not a member of the FAGE nor can he be one, as he has been accused by Salvadoran university students in Opinion Estudiantil of being in the service of the Investigations Section of the Police; that Sosa Cruz, according to a letter in the possession of the FAGE, has confessed being the author, together with certain other persons, of an anonymous publication to the effect that if El Combate is not supported by the Government of Guatemala, it serves the interests of that government in endeavoring to divide members of the opposition; and finally, it is probable that some problem which had arisen in connection with his services to the Salvadoran Police has contributed to the belief of the migration authorities that he should leave the country.

On January 20, Patria Nueva published a reply from Sosa Cruz to the FAGE. Sosa Cruz claimed that Carlos SALAZAR h. who had signed the communication from the FAGE had, together with certain other Guatemalan exiles, devoted themselves to the publication of a few sheets containing material already published by anti-communist journalists within Guatemala. After several assorted insults directed at Salazar, Sosa Cruz said he had never acted as a secret agent for the Salvadoran police as could be proved by an examination of the books of that organization. However, if at any time the Salvadoran authorities should ask his collaboration in unmasking communists who carry on their activities under the guise of being anti-communists, he would undertake to do so with the greatest pleasure, feeling it a duty for the security of Central America. He claimed Salazar had been expelled from Mexico by Guatemalan exiles and that he and his group live opulently, spending large sums of money, frequently travel abroad and boast "that a foreign company is financing their activities."

This communication brought about a reply from the FAGE signed by the Secretary of that group, Federico PAIZ Herrera. The reply

was published in Patria Nueva on January 22. It said Sosa Cruz, and those who wrote the letter for him, knew very well that he is an outrageous prevaricator; that as his activities on behalf of the police were so confidential very probably his name would not appear in their books and that he had not denied, because he could not, that he was the author of the anonymous publication which was intended to create confusion in the ranks of the organized opposition. It said that if Sosa Cruz should continue agitating this painful incident, it would present adequate proof that he was the author of the anonymous publication.

In a further development, La Prensa Grafica on January 25 reported that the FAGE had been denounced before a Criminal Court by a certain Fernando SUAREZ Sandoval, a Guatemalan exile, for the falsification of documents. The article said Suarez would present concrete proofs which he hoped would completely clarify the true position of the FAGE concerning certain illegal activities and for defamation of character. The article continued: "Among those who have been denounced--members of the FAGE--are persons high in Guatemalan political circles, among them a former candidate to the presidency of that republic in the last elections, as well as professional men, etc., etc."

On January 28 the FAGE directed a letter to the editor of the Diario Latino which was published in its issue of January 30 together with photostats of two letters purporting to have been written by Sosa Cruz. The second letter is of more interest since apparently Sosa Cruz stated he had been present when the anonymous letter to the effect that El Combate, if not supported by the Government of Guatemala, served its interests, was confected by General - - advised by Lic. - - in the house of Col. - - on January 27, 1953. Unfortunately the names have been obliterated from the photostatic copy "in order not to give any satisfaction ...to those eager beavers of the Guatemalan Embassy who are keenly interested in this lamentable incident."

In its letter transmitting these photostatic copies, the FAGE referred to Suarez Sandoval as the "roommate of Br. Sosa." It is interesting that CAS reports indicate that Sosa Cruz resided in the same pension and shared a room with a person known to be a communist. Other reports from the same source confirm the fact that Sosa Cruz apparently did work for the Salvadoran police and also that he has a brother, Francisco Sosa Cruz, who was residing in Honduras at least a year ago and who is known to be a communist. While utilized by the police, it is not felt that they placed much confidence in Sosa Cruz and his having been ordered to leave the country is probably a reflection of the recent changes in the Police Department and the very possible weeding out of informants believed undesirable or unreliable.

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In connection with the appeal to the Supreme Court made by Sosa Cruz, the Court requested the views of the General Direction of Migration. At the same time it received a report from the National Police to the effect that "the conduct of Sosa Cruz was not satisfactory for the national interests." Sosa Cruz appears to have left the country on January 28 for Mexico. The press was informed that the Supreme Court, although it had undertaken a study of the case, had not issued any resolution suspending the decision of the migration authorities since such suspension had not been requested by Sosa Cruz. As a matter of fact, on rereading the petition presented to the court by Sosa Cruz, it would appear that he had requested only "amparo for violation of constitutional rights ..."

While Sosa Cruz has left El Salvador, the case is an unfortunate example of the differences which exist between various factions among the Guatemalan exiles. Recently an article appeared in the Central American press to the effect that all the political exiles had united behind General Miguel YDIGORAS Fuentes. The truth of this statement was promptly denied by the FAGE in El Combate in which it republished a letter of December 31, 1953 directed to Clemente MARROQUIN Rojas, stating that while it is true there existed a unification of the opposition, it is absolutely untrue it had united behind Gen. Ydígoras Fuentes. It said in part: "We do not deny the personal merits of Gen. Ydígoras Fuentes as a political figure and as a diplomat; but at the present historical moment in which Guatemala is living, the organized opposition ... did not actually choose Gen. Ydígoras Fuentes as its director or chief."

Andrew E. Donovan II
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

cc: Embassy, Guatemala;
Embassy, Mexico;
MID.

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